

The list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method for treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a subject in need of such treatment, comprising:

administering at least one osmotically active compound to an airway surface of the subject in an amount effective to increase the volume of liquid on the airway surface, wherein the at least one osmotically active compound comprises at least one salt; and

administering a bronchodilator to said subject prior to or concurrently with said osmotically active compound in an amount sufficient to inhibit bronchoconstriction.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the subject is afflicted with cystic fibrosis.

16-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said administering step of the at least one osmotically active compound is an aerosol inhalation administering step.

21-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one salt comprises an anion selected from the group consisting of acetate, benzenesulfonate, benzoate, bicarbonate, bitartrate, bromide, calcium edetate, camsylate, carbonate, chloride, citrate, dihydrochloride, edetate, edisylate, estolate,

esylate, fumarate, gluceptate, gluconate, glutamate, glycolylarsanilate, hexylresorcinate, hydrabamine, hydrobromide, hydrochloride, hydroxynaphthoate, iodide, isethionate, lactate, lactobionate, malate, maleate, mandelate, mesylate, methylbromide, methylnitrate, methylsulfate, mucate, napsylate, nitrate, pamoate, pantothenate, phosphate or diphosphate, polygalacturonate, salicylate, stearate, subacetate, succinate, sulfate, tannate, tartrate, teoclate, triethiodide, and bicarbonate.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one salt comprises an anion selected from the group consisting of sulfate, nitrate, gluconate, iodide, bicarbonate, bromide, and phosphate.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one salt comprises a cation selected from the group consisting of benzathine, chloroprocaine, choline, diethanolamine, ethylenediamine, meglumine, procaine, D-Lysine, L-lysine, D-arginine, L-arginine, triethylammonium, N-methyl D-glycerol, aluminum, calcium, lithium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, zinc, iron, and ammonium.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one salt comprises a cation selected from the group consisting of choline, lithium, meglumine, D-lysine, ammonium, magnesium, calcium, and potassium.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one salt comprises:

an anion selected from the group consisting of sulfate, nitrate, gluconate, iodide, bicarbonate, bromide, and phosphate; and

a cation selected from the group consisting of choline, lithium, meglumine, D-lysine, ammonium, magnesium, calcium, and potassium.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one salt comprises a single salt.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a subject in need of such treatment, comprising administering at least one salt to an airway surface of the subject in an amount effective to increase the volume of liquid on the airway surface; wherein said at least one salt comprises a combination of different salts; and wherein said combination of different salts have either (i) a same anion or (ii) a same cation wherein at least one of said anion and said cation are non-absorbable in relation to said airway surface.

38. (Currently Amended) **[[A]]** The method according to claim 37, wherein said different salts have a same anion.

39. (Currently Amended) **[[A]]** The method according to claim 37, wherein said different salts have a same cation.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) **[[A]]** The method according to claim 37, wherein said salt comprises an anion and a cation, and wherein both of said anion and said cation are non-absorbable in relation to said airway surface.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one salt is selected from the group consisting of choline chloride, choline iodide, lithium chloride, meglumine chloride, L-lysine chloride, D-lysine chloride, ammonium chloride, potassium sulfate, potassium nitrate, potassium gluconate, potassium iodide, ferric chloride, ferrous chloride, potassium bromide, potassium phosphate, potassium bicarbonate, and sodium bicarbonate.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one salt is selected from the group consisting of potassium sulfate, potassium

nitrate, potassium gluconate, potassium iodide, potassium bromide, potassium phosphate, and potassium bicarbonate.

44-49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one salt is potassium bicarbonate.

51. (Previously Presented) A method for treating cystic fibrosis in a subject in need of such treatment, comprising administering at least one osmotically active compound to an airway surface of the subject in an amount effective to increase the volume of liquid on the airway surface;

wherein the at least one osmotically active compound comprises at least one salt; and

administering a bronchodilator to said subject prior to or concurrently with said osmotically active compound in an amount sufficient to inhibit bronchoconstriction.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the subject is afflicted with cystic fibrosis.

53. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the bronchodilator is selected from the group consisting of β -adrenergic agonists, anticholinergic agonists, and xanthine derivatives.

54. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the β -adrenergic agonist is epinephrine, isoproterenol, albuterol, terbutaline, pirbuterol, metaproteronol or salmeterol.

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55. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein the bronchodilator is selected from the group consisting of β -adrenergic agonists, anticholinergic agonists and xanthine derivatives.

56. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein the β -adrenergic agonist is epinephrine, isoproterenol, albuterol, terbutaline, pirbuterol, metaproterenol or salmeterol.